



SLOC VAWG PROJECT (2020- 2023) NIGERIA Endline Evaluation Report

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SLOC supported Women Rights Organizations to challenge oppressive socio-cultural norms and practices that exacerbate gender-based violence (GBV)



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Overview of the SLOC Project

1.0 SLOC Project Overview

Many development issues are deeply rooted in gender inequality. In turn, Gender Based Violence (GBV) has brought about poor progress on development issues such as poverty, access to education and health etc. Issues of education, health and poverty among women and girls will remain unachieved unless gender inequality is addressed.

Strengthening the Capacities of Local Woman's Right Organization to Combat Violence against Women and Girls (SLOC VAWG) Project, was funded by Ford Foundation to support Women's Rights Organizations (WROs) to advance gender equality in Nigeria. The SLOC project was implemented by ActionAid (AAN) in partnership with WROs from 2020- 2023 in 3 states (Imo, Gombe, and FCT).

Gender transformative programs aspire to tackle the root causes of gender inequality and it moves beyond self-improvement among girls and women to redress power dynamics and structures that serve to reinforce gender inequalities (UNICEF 2020). Through a gender transformative approach, the SLOC project provided technical and financial support to WROs to enable them to challenge oppressive socio-cultural norms and practices that escalate gender-based violence (GBV) and the fear of it. SLOC project aimed to bring changes in social norms and gender norms in project communities by changing people's beliefs. The project also aimed to improve the organizational and institutional capabilities of WROs.

1.2 SLOC Project Goal

The goal of the SLOC project is to contribute to Women and Girls living with reduced GBV through effective implementation of women-led Violence Against Women and Girls Programming across Imo, Gombe and FCT, Nigeria. The expected outcomes of the SLOC project are.

- To improve institutional capacities of women's rights organizations to strategically design, implement and manage GBV for vulnerable women and girls in the project-implementing states.
- To Increase the effectiveness of women's organizations in developing GBV interventions and affecting social change in the project implementing states through the provision of multi-year grants.

1.3 SLOC Project Coverage

The SLOC VAWG project was implemented by ActionAid in partnership with 12 WROs. WROs partners comprised of 6 NGOs and 6 CBOs. WROs utilized multi-prong approach to engage 34 communities and 42 schools located in 16 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in FCT, Gombe and Imo states of Nigeria.

In FCT, the SLOC project was implemented in 3 Local Government Areas (LGAs) (Bwari, Gwagwalada and AMAC) and in 9 communities (5 in AMAC, 3 communities in Bwari, 1 in Gwagwalada).

While in Gombe, SLOC project was implemented in 6 LGAs (Akko, Kwami, Funakaye, Kaltungu, Shongom, Yamaltudeba) covering 14 communities – (i.e., 2 in AKKO LGA, 3 in Kwami LGA, 2 in Funakaye, 3 in Kaltungu, 3 in Shongom, and 1 in Yalmaltudeba).

Overview of the SLOC Project

Similarly, SLOC project in Imo state was carried out in 7 LGAs (Oguta LGA, Oru East LGA, Owerri West, Mbaitolu, Isu LGA, Ehime – Mbano and Ahiazu Mbiase LGA) covering 11 Communities (2 in Oguta, 1 in Oru East, 3 in Owerri west, 1 in Mbaitolu, 1 in Isu, 1 in Ehime-Mbano, 2 in Ahiazu Mbiase).

Table 1: Where SLOC Project was Implemented

State	LGAs	Communities	Schools
FCT	3	9	7
Gombe	6	14	27
Imo	7	11	8
Total	16	34	42

12 WROs that partnered with AAN to implement the SLOC VAWG project are

- Initiative for Women and Girls Right Advancement (IWOGRA) WRO FCT
- Teenage Education and Empowerment Network (Teenage Network) CBO FCT
- My Take Initiative CBO FCT
- Sexual Offences Awareness and Response (Soar) Initiative. WRO FCT
- Faida Community Development Association (FCDA) WRO Gombe
- Motherhen Development Foundation CBO Gombe
- Knightingale Women Health Initiative (KWHI) WRO Gombe
- Federation of Muslim Women's Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN) CBO Gombe
- Communal Care Centre (CCC) WRO Imo
- National Council for Women's Societies (NCWS) WRO Imo
- Virgin Heart Foundation CBO Imo
- Honor birth Foundation CBO Imo

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In addition to project communities, WROs confirmed that they responded to GBV cases from other communities and intervened beyond their project communities. Also, community structures such as peer groups and community response teams sensitized neighbouring communities on VAWG.

Evaluation Methodology

2.0 Evaluation Methodology

ActionAid engaged an Independent Consultant to conduct an end-line evaluation of the SLOC VAWG project. The end-line evaluation was conducted in 3 states (Imo, Gombe and FCT) to better understand the impact of the SLOC project implementation and how the project responded to the needs that it was designed to address.

2.1 Purpose of the Evaluation

The evaluation aimed to assess the performance of the SLOC project and capture project achievements, challenges and best practices to inform future similar programming. The evaluation is expected to ensure accountability and offers a learning aspect for all stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the evaluation are:

- Evaluate to what extent SLOC Project institutional capacity-building processes for WROs were effectively delivered, efficient, relevant, and timely as set in the project log frame.
- Evaluate how beneficiaries' knowledge and understanding of GBV impacted their response to GBV Cases across the project implementing states.
- Assess whether/not the implementation of the SLOC project has increased Women's Rights Led Organizations' effectiveness in developing GBV prevention and response interventions and influencing social change in the project states.
- Identify key lessons, and challenges and draw recommendations for future programming of Women Rights Led Organizations responding to and preventing GBV.
- Review the recommendations of the SLOC project Mid Term Review (MTR), and Quarterly reports, and assess the extent to which these were implemented.

2.2 Evaluation Participants

The evaluation occurred at the organizational and community level. At the organizational level, 17 males and 34 females (total of 51 persons) participated in the end-line evaluation from AAN and WROs. The table below represents the breakdown of evaluation participants by organization:

Table 2: Organizations that Participated in the Evaluation

State	Organization	Males	Females
FCT	AAN	3	2
	SOAR	1	3
	Teenage network		3
	Iwogra	2	2
Gombe	Faida		4
	Knightingale	4	5
	FOMWAN	2	3
	Motherhen	3	2
IMO	CCC		3
	Honour Birth	1	2
	NCWS	1	2
	Virgin Heart		3
TOTAL		17	34

Evaluation Methodology

At the community level, a total of 116 beneficiaries from 11 communities across FCT, Imo and Gombe states participated in the study. This evaluation was inclusive and so traditional leaders, government officials, community leaders, security agents, men, women and girls were interviewed. The table below represents the breakdown of communities and beneficiaries that participated in the evaluation:

Table 3: Communities and Beneficiaries that Participated in the Evaluation

State	Community	Trad Council	Government Official	Women leader	Religious leader	Women	Men	Girls	Vigilante	Police
FCT	Kuchiko Bwari	1	1	2	1			5		
FCT	Pigba-sama	1			1	6	2	6	1	1
FCT	Dutse-pe	1		1		3	2	3		
Gombe	Garko	1		2	2	9	1			
Gombe	Lapan	1			1	6	3	3	1	
Gombe	Liji	1		1	1	7	5	9	1	
Imo	Amawuihe community			1		3	1			
Imo	Oforola community and Olaukwu communities					4	1			
Imo	Oguta and Akabor					5	4	4		
Sub Total	11 communities	6	1	7	6	43	19	30	3	1
TOTAL		116 persons								

2.3 Data Collection Methods

Multiple data collection approaches were adopted to evaluate the SLOC project.

- An extensive desk review of SLOC VAWG Project documents was conducted. The document reviewed were SLOC Baseline Assessment report, Annual reports, Result Framework, Story Collections etc.
- Focus group discussions was conducted with AAN, WROs and beneficiaries.

These data collection methods gave multiple standpoints on the SLOC project's performance and was useful for including different voices and perspectives that made the evaluation robust and reduced bias.

2.4 Evaluation Design

SLOC evaluation was conducted using 3 complimentary methods which strengthened evaluation findings. The Evaluation Matrix, Theory of Change and Pre - Post methods. The findings from the three methods are in this report.

A detailed Evaluation Matrix was developed by the consultant in collaboration with AAN and WROs and utilized to assess the relevance, effectiveness, sustainability and added value of the SLOC project. These criteria are inspired by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/ DAC). SLOC Evaluation Matrix is included in the ANNEX.

Evaluation Methodology

Pre and Post Method was possible for this study because baseline assessments were conducted at the early stages of the project. The findings from the baseline assessment were compared with end-line evaluation findings. The results are contained in this report.

The theory of Change model was used to trace and determine if the results achieved were consistent with the SLOC project goals/outcomes and assessed alternative explanations for the observed project outcomes. It also enabled the collection of information on the factors that contributed to the results. The findings are contained in this report.

2.5 Implementation Strategy

The SLOC evaluation was implemented in three phases.

Inception Phase: An inception meeting was held with the evaluation team of ActionAid and the evaluation consultant on the 2nd March 2023 to plan for the end-line evaluation. Following the discussions at the inception meeting, an inception report was developed by the consultant detailing the agreed evaluation approach and approved by AAN. Desk review of relevant project documents and reports was carried out by the consultant. Documents reviewed include SLOC Baseline Assessment, Annual reports, Result Framework, Story Collections etc. Given that the SLOC project was aimed at advancing gender equality, SLOC evaluation was based on feminist principles of inclusivity, participation, and empowerment. In line with the feminist evaluation approach, a co-creation session with WROs was held on the 14th March 2023 to discuss the evaluation protocol, finalize the evaluation workplan and get their buy-in. The co-creation session was attended by AAN and WROs. A total of 12 persons from 10 WROs attended the co-creation session except for FOMWAN and My Take Initiative. Data collection tools (FGD guides) was developed for the different respondents (i.e., WROs, Beneficiaries and AAN) and pre-tested for appropriateness.

Field Phase: The field phase commenced on 16th March 2023 and was concluded 15th April 2023. Using the approved evaluation instruments (FGD guides), data was collected in the 3 project states. In line with the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) of this evaluation, informed consent to participate in the study or record the discussion was obtained from respondents. The data was collected from organizations and communities in FCT, Gombe and Imo that implemented or benefitted from the SLOC VAWG project. In line with HRBA access to the study recording, consent forms, and completed FGD guides was limited. The evaluation consultant ensured that the facilitation of the FGDs encouraged participation and was gender sensitive to the voices of all respondent in alignment with the feminist approach.

Analysis, Reporting and Dissemination Phase: Desk and field data were analyzed. Different evaluation products were developed for various users to improve utilization of evaluation findings. The products developed were SLOC Evaluation brief, SLOC Evaluation Report and PowerPoint presentation. A validation meeting with stakeholders will ensure findings are validated and recommendations are practical, relevant, and feasible

Context

3.0 Context

Nigeria has made tremendous progress in establishing legal and policy framework for addressing VAWG. In 2015, Nigeria passed the Comprehensive Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act 2015, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence and includes the right to assistance for victims of violence. In addition, Nigeria is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Despite legislation and ongoing efforts to protect women and vulnerable populations against violence, much remains to be done in protecting victims and prosecuting perpetrators. Barriers to gender equality persist in the country, including discriminatory norms, laws and practices that increased risks of violence, especially for the most vulnerable women and girls

The prevalence of all forms of GBV in the country increased from 31% in 2008 to 36% in 2018 (NDHS 2018). In most parts of Nigeria, ignorance on issues of GBV is predominant. Communities are unaware of actions that constitute gender-based violence, resulting in the high level of violence against women. Poor awareness about GBV is one of the drivers fueling the prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls and widening the gender inequality gap in the country.

According to findings from baseline assessment by AAN, GBV was prevalent in Gombe, Imo and FCT which prompted the selection of 34 communities and 42 schools in these states for the SLOC VAWG project. It is widely practiced in many states in Nigeria including FCT, Gombe and Imo states for victims of rape and their families to hide this act of violence. This is caused by ignorance in these communities that rape is a criminal offense and further complicated by the general believe that the rape victim is to blame. As such, the culture of silence is practiced to protect victims from victim blaming. Furthermore, if the rape victim is pregnant, to cover and avoid the shame, forced/ early marriage of victims is practiced and, in some cases, victims are forced to marry their abusers. The rape victim who is pregnant by no fault of hers, has to drop out of school. Rape sets off a string of actions that punishes the victims and protects the perpetrator. This act of violence affects progress in other areas of development. Most often, forced/ early marriage compromises a girl's development by interrupting her schooling, and limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement (i.e., GBV affects educational access for girls). It also often puts her at greater risk of partner violence and sexually transmitted diseases. It was clearly established at baseline that the culture of silence, victim blaming and forced/ early marriage are common norms in project communities in FCT, Gombe and Imo.

According to MICS 2021, exception for the richest wealth quantile, more girls and women than boys and men aged 15-49 years, justified wife beating for certain reasons. This indicates that there is social acceptability of intimate partner violence in the country. Acceptance of wife beating among adolescent girls and boys suggests that it can be difficult for married girls who experience violence to seek assistance and for unmarried girls to identify and negotiate healthy and equitable relationships. In project communities in FCT, Imo and Gombe, domestic violence is accepted and treated as a private family issue. As such it is not reported and even when it is public knowledge that a man beats his wife, usually no action is taken.

Harmful widowhood practice is commonly practiced in many parts of the country including FCT, Gombe and Imo state. When a women husband dies, she passes through dehumanizing treatment as part of the mourning rituals for her deceased husband. She is also denied the right to inherit her husband properties and so she struggles to take care of the children without the economic support from her husband estate. Although harmful widowhood practice is widespread, the severity of the practice varies. In SLOC project communities, the plight of widows is more severe in Imo state than in Gombe and FCT.

The practice of denying females inheritance is widely accepted across the country including in FCT, Gombe and Imo states. Women and girls cannot inherit from their father because females belong to their husband home while the male is a member of his father family and has rights to his father's properties. Also, a widow without a male child cannot inherit the properties of her late husband rather it belongs to her husband's brothers and relatives. Female disinheritance is a norm in the project communities.

Girls who get pregnant out of wedlock are ostracized and discriminated against. Pregnant girls most times lose the opportunity to continue with their education after childbirth and are forced into marriage by their parents. However, the male who fathered the child proceeds with his education with little or no consequence. Unwanted teenage pregnancy occurs in many parts of the country including FCT, Imo and Gombe. In communities with a high prevalence of teenage pregnancy such as the Dutspe community in FCT (northern Nigeria), school dropout for girls is high. This creates a situation which keeps literacy levels among women and girls low. Evidence from MICS 2021 showed that education for the girl child is lowest in the north of the country which confirms this context.

It is more common in FCT and Gombe (northern Nigeria) for families to be more favorable disposed to boys going to school than girls which creates unequal opportunities for boys and girls. Boys are preferred because they are seen as the ones who will remain in the family while the girls will leave to another family for marriage. However, in the south i.e., Imo state, the preference for educating boys occurs in families with limited resources to train both sexes.

In school settings, boys are perceived as leaders and come out for leadership roles but not girls. Also, boys don't see any wrong in touching girls without consent or speaking to girls in a derogatory manner.

The SLOC project sort to change these contexts and so intervened in Imo, Gombe and FCT for 3 years. The endline evaluation was conduct to assess among other things the extent to which these contexts have changed.

Findings:

4.0 Relevance of SLOC Project

Inclusiveness of Project

Project Alignment with
WRO and Beneficiaries Needs

4.1 Inclusiveness of SLOC Project Partners

Diversity of Partner Organization

The evaluation assessed the diversity, inclusion and extent of balance in the selection of project partners.

Table 4: SLOC Partner Organizations Profile

	CAC Registered	Year of operation from CAC	Grants including SLOC	Status	Population focus Thematic Focus
SOAR	2011	12yrs	8	NGO	Adolescents, GBV interventions
Teenage Network	2018	5yrs	5	CBO	Adolescents Education, GBV
IWOGRA	2020	3yrs	3	NGO First grant	Women and girls GBV and SRH
FAIDA	2017	6yrs	1	NGO First grant	Women and girls Empowerment
KNIGHTENGALE	2010	13yrs	5	NGO	Women and Girls Health, Empowerment
Mother hen	2018	5yrs	5	CBO	Women with disability, Health, empowerment
FOMWAN Gombe	1996	27yrs	14	CBO Older	Women and Girls Empowerment
CCC	2010	13yrs	10	NGO Older	Health
Honor Birth F	2013	10yrs	5	CBO Older	Women and Girls Empowerment
NCWS Network	1976 2019 CAC	47yrs	2	Network. First grant	Women
Virgin Heart F	2017	6yrs	3	CBO First grant	Adolescents School programs

The selection of SLOC partners was diverse and representative. SLOC partners intervened among different population focus (Adolescent, Women, Girls, Persons with Disability). The selection of organizations achieved a mix of diverse thematic focus (Health, Empowerment, Education, GBV). Partners selection reflected organizational diversity which included network organization, start-up organizations and older organizations. Four organizations IWOGRA, Virgin heart, FAIDA and NCWS had their first granting experience on the SLOC grant. The efforts made by AAN to ensure inclusiveness and diversity of organizations was successful.

Overall, the SLOC project achieved diversity and inclusion in the selection of implementing organizations.

4.2 Inclusiveness of SLOC Project Beneficiaries

Diversity of SLOC Beneficiaries

WROs engaged with community stakeholders to select project beneficiaries. The extent of diversity of SLOC project beneficiaries was assessed and these are the findings:

Religious Diversity

Religious leaders are critical stakeholders in addressing harmful socio-cultural norms that perpetrate GBV. WROs implemented the project in 34 communities and established GBV Response Teams in 24 communities (70% of project communities). Religious leaders are members of the Response Team in most communities. However, not all communities had Christian and Muslim leaders represented on their Response Teams. The following communities achieved religious representation in their Response team: Ligi community Gombe, Garko community Gombe and Kuchiko bwari community in FCT. WROs should ensure that for subsequent GBV projects, engagement with religious leaders is inclusive of both religions.

Gender Diversity

It is well established that gender transformative approach involves engaging men and women, girls and boys to challenge harmful gender norms and practices such as gender-based violence (UNICEF 2020). WROs held extensive dialogues and sensitizations with 6,647 males and females in the communities. Male and females were represented in 24 Response Teams set up in the communities. Therefore, on the SLOC project, gender representativeness was achieved in the selection of beneficiaries.

Vulnerable Group Diversity

Vulnerable groups are more likely to experience GBV due to their vulnerability. The SLOC project addressed cases of violence against vulnerable groups such as widows, house helpers, teenage mothers, persons with disabilities etc. However, vulnerable groups were only involved with project activities in a few communities. In these communities, Oguta community Imo, Ligi community Gombe, Oforola community Imo and Olaukwu community Imo, Persons with Disability (PWD) are members of the Response Teams. A widow in Pigba-sama community in FCT is a peer mentor. Also, in Ligi community Gombe through the SLOC project, 14 female PWD acquired skills which reduced their vulnerability to GBV. A blind girl in Ligi learnt to make pomade through the SLOC project skill acquisition which she produces and sells in the community. A woman with disability makes and sells beans balls (Akara). Another woman with disability started a small firewood business. Also, SLOC partners established peer groups to educate communities. In Pigba-sama widows are involved in peer activities and women with disabilities are active members of Ligi women peer group. However, vulnerable groups were not represented in many project communities. On future GBV projects WROs should be intentional in the enrollment and engagement of vulnerable groups.

The SLOC project was gender inclusive in targeting beneficiaries but there were gaps in inclusion of vulnerable groups.

4.3 Alignment of Project with Partners Needs

Addressing the Needs of Organizations

The SLOC project aimed to improve institutional capacities of women's rights organizations. In line with this an organizational baseline assessment was conducted by ActionAid for WROs utilizing the Partnership Appraisal Monitoring (PAM) Assessment. PAM enabled WROs identify gaps in policy, M&E, governance, organizational structure, human resources etc. and capacity building on the SLOC project focused on bridging these gaps. This evaluation assessed if the needs of organizations were addressed by the project. Some of the needs of partners organizations are discussed below:

Lack of Organizational Structure

2 start-up organizations on SLOC VAWG project said that PAM revealed that they were lacking structures and had gaps across their organizations. While for another start-up organization, PAM was their first elaborate assessment. PAM assessment was focused on helping rather than victimizing organizations which made it easier for these startups to open up about their gaps. Start up organizations received mentorship and training from AAN that was relevant to their needs. In the words of Honor Birth Foundation, the PAM assessment and SLOC training were useful because there is no partner that will come to their organization and not see a system.

Policy Gaps

According to a WRO in FCT, everything they wanted to do and how they wanted to do it was in their minds but PAM showed them that they needed to transform these thoughts into policies. 12 SLOC partners identified policy gaps and received guidance from AAN to develop/review these policies. Currently, SLOC partners have policies for Human Resources, Finance, Data protection, communication policy, procurement, safe guard policy, whistle blowing, Sexual Harassment Exploitation and Abuse, conflict of interest etc. SLOC partners lacked policies, the project identified and addressed these gaps.

Weak Financial Systems

Organizational strengthening on the SLOC project was valuable to WROs because it addressed gaps in their financial systems. PAM identified lack of financial transparency in a WRO and with AAN mentorship the board of trustees of this organization signed off its 2022 audited account. According to 5 WROs, gaps in retirements, tax deduction, tax remittance, irregular bank reconciliation and non-compliance with online transactions, identified by PAM have been resolved. While for another organization, they did not have defined financial process and through the SLOC capacity strengthening they currently comply with financial policies such as request for withdrawal, review and approvals from signatories to the account etc. CCC in Imo reported that because of capacity built on the SLOC project, they came first in accountability among other organizations that implemented the Caritas project (another grant). Clearly, partners needed financial strengthening and the SLOC project met this need.

Inability to Mobilize Resources

Mobilizing resources poses a significant challenge for organizations and WROs received training on resource mobilization on the SLOC project and organizations see it as one of the most relevant trainings.

At PAM assessment, in many organizations it was just the EDs that had proposal writing skills but the trainings for proposal writing have improved staff skills as well. Virgin heart Foundation in Imo state was able to access additional grant from UNICEF because of the experience, policies, office space etc. from the SLOC project. Due to the visibility of their SLOC project on social media, Virgin heart Foundation caught the attention of an NGO, Spaces for change and has received 2 projects for them. Although proposal writing skills has improved, 7 WROs still see it as a gap and they still require assistance on proposal writing. Most organizations said that the time for the SLOC resource mobilization training was too short and too intensive. Also, the resource mobilization was more on proposal writing and less on obtaining funds from other sources. WROs need capacity building on both proposal writing and other forms of resource mobilization. Teenage Network in FCT, was able to get donations of office items from USAID because from the SLOC training they learnt to explore alternative sources for resources. Although the SLOC project aligned with the need of WROs for resource mobilization, this need was only addressed to an extent but gaps in resource mobilization still exist.

Weak Governance Structures

Organizations had struggles with their Board of Trustees (BOT) with regards to availability and understanding their responsibility. The board for some organizations was non-functional so there was no accountability to the board. SOAR in FCT through the SLOC training conducted by AAN developed a governance manual and reviewed the constitution of their BOT. They also identified that most of their projects was in the north but they lacked representation from the north on the board and recruited a board member from the north that is a gender expert. Currently, BOT members sign off on SOAR annual reports. Improved effectiveness of the BOT was also reported by 4 organizations. CCC had never held any meeting with BOT until the SLOC project and their first board meeting was funded by the project. Organizations governance needs were addressed under the SLOC.

Human Resource Gaps

Existing gaps in human resources capacity in partner organizations was identified through the PAM. In some organizations, only the ED had the capacity needed for project implementation but with training from SLOC project, other staff acquired skills. Some organizations with volunteers and no permanent staff saw the need to engage permanent staff. Through the training, organizations were equipped with tools for engaging with community which improved project implementation. Organization's ability to come up with socio behavioral messages for fliers and radio program etc. improved. The project also improved WROs skills in writing concept notes, documentation and reporting.

ActionAid identified the needs of organizations and provided training relevant to their needs.

4.4 Alignment of Project with Beneficiaries Needs

Addressing the Needs of Beneficiaries

To ensure that solutions were tailored to specific context in project communities, community baseline survey was conducted by AAN as well as individual assessments conducted by 12 WROs to identify root causes of VAWG. The outcome of these assessments informed SLOC interventions. VAWG issues common across Imo, FCT and Gombe were identified. These issues include rape, domestic violence, denial of girl child education etc. and these issues were tackled in the 3 states.

Additionally, through these assessments' harmful practices **unique to certain communities**, which have sustained gender-based-violence for decades were exposed as well. In many communities' women and girls have lived under these oppressive norms with no end in sight. Some of the contextual acts of VAWG occurring in communities that were identified and addressed by the SLOC project are explained below:

One of such contextual GBV issues is breast ironing. Breast ironing is widely practiced in indigenous communities of the FCT. In Pigba-sama community in FCT, it is normal for mothers to iron the breast of young girls to slow down breast development believing that this will protect them from men. 1 in 3 girls in Pigba-sama has experienced breast ironing. SLOC project challenged this act of violence against girls in Pigba-sama.

In Lapan a farming community in Gombe, usually during rainy season both husbands and wives do the farm work but after the harvest are sold, men keep the income without taking care of the needs of the family. Lapan women silently endured this violation of their rights until it was identified as an issue through the SLOC project.

Similarly, Barema is a common practice in Garko community in Gombe that was identified as increasing the risk of violence against girls. Barema is the custom of sending children including girls to look for farm work and earn stipends for the family. Usually, girls face sexual harassment and exploitation on the way to these farmlands and while working on these farmlands. SLOC interventions in Garko supported the community to set up safety measures that protect girls during Barema.

Also, Ligi community in Gombe practice Chirani. Chirani is the custom of the husband being away throughout the dry season for most of the year leaving the wife and children behind and most times without support. The women have to carry the responsibility for upkeep of the children alone because of Chirani. SLOC VAWG interventions addressed this norm in Ligi.

Women are restricted from doing certain business in some communities. In Akabor community in Imo state, women are banned from farming melon even though it is a staple food in the country. Melon seed is the main ingredient for the popular Egusi soup in Nigeria. This ban on women in Akabor community happened so many years. Legend has it that men farmed yam and women grew melon on the same piece of land. There were many instances of men trampling on the melon which grieved the women and to settle the dispute a law was passed banning the farming of melon in that community. Through the project, groundwork has been laid to lift this ban in Akabor.

Certain communities believe that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) will limit the sexual urges (libido) of girls and make them less promiscuous. In Oguta, Ozuh Omuma, Amawuihe, Ogbenneisii, Oforola, and Olaukwu communities in Imo State, these communities usually partially mutilated or fully cut off the external genitalia (clitoris or labia minora) of female children (FGM). SLOC project focused on eliminating FGM in these communities.

The Osu caste system and labelling in Oforola community and Olaukwu communities is a harmful and discriminatory traditional practice. In the olden days, Osu people in these communities were property of idols and slaves to chief priests of Idols. As such, Osus are restricted from interacting and contracting marriages

with other members of the communities. Osus are barred from becoming members of the traditional ruler's cabinet (Ezes cabinet) and are not allowed to participate in leadership and decision making on matters that concern them. They are not allowed to own land and can only buy goods in the market from other Osus. These act of violence against Osus was challenged in these communities through the assistance of the project.

Incest is when sexual relations occur between people closely related or within the same family. This crime of incest occurs in Umuezeala Nsu community in Imo state. In this community when an uncle sleeps with his niece and she gets pregnant, she is married off to an aged man. The girl suffers but the perpetrator only pays a goat as fine. Incest was also tackled on the project.

SLOC Project did not impose on the community but supported communities to address harmful norms that were issues to them.

4.5 Challenges and Recommendations

- The lack of M&E staff increased the workload on WROs program officers and affected the timeliness of programmatic reports. Similarly, the lack of communications officer affected the visibility of the SLOC project. ***At a minimum for future GBV projects, AAN should ensure that WROs project staff should include ED, Finance Officer, Communications officer, Programs Officer, and M&E Officer.***
- The timing was late for some trainings directly related to project implementation as such these trainings were not so useful to the project but will be useful for future projects. ***It may be helpful if AAN conducts training needed for project implementation earlier on the project while organizational training comes later.***
- It was unanimous among WROs that the training provided during the project was exactly what they needed but it was not sufficient because the volume of work and content was too much for the days planned (usually 3 days). ***It is recommended that AAN extends the number of days for training to give room for technical concepts to be simplified.***
- Vulnerable groups were only involved with project activities in a few communities. Inclusion of vulnerable group was low. ***It is recommended that in subsequent GBV projects WROs are intentional in the enrollment and engagement of vulnerable groups.***
- The SLOC project was gender inclusive in targeting beneficiaries but ***there is a need for WROs to improve on the inclusiveness of vulnerable groups in future GBV project.***
- WROs engaged with religious leaders on the SLOC project. However, Christian and Muslim leaders were not represented in all the community Response Teams. ***WROs should ensure that for subsequent GBV projects, engagement with religious leaders is inclusive of both religions***

Findings:

5.0 Effectiveness of SLOC Project

Achievements of the Project

5.1 Influencing Change: GBV Awareness

Achievements in Community Awareness of GBV

Gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It is deeply rooted in gender inequality. Many communities are ignorant of gender violence and the practices that perpetuate it. Ignorance of GBV is a major driver sustaining the cycle of violence against women and girls across communities. AAN worked with women's organizations in Nigeria through the SLOC project to reduce ignorance of GBV in 34 communities and 42 schools in Imo, Gombe and FCT. WROs using the platform of the SLOC project dialogued, trained and sensitized men and women on ending VAWG. Through the project, 6,647 men and women, and 757 adolescents were sensitized on GBV in 3 states.

Table 5: Persons Sensitized on GBV in SLOC Project Communities

	FCT	Gombe	Imo	Total
Females and Males	958	1746	3943	6647
Adolescents	564		193	757

Findings also showed that dialogue and sensitization on the SLOC project were targeted to specific groups and adapted to the community context.

Imo state is a predominantly Igbo-speaking state, with Igbo people constituting a majority of 98%. The Umuada in Igbo culture is one of the most organized and endowed women groups in Nigeria. WROs leveraged the Umuada forum to sensitize women in Imo state on GBV and these meetings afforded SLOC partners the opportunity of a wider audience (i.e., 3,943 persons in Imo sensitized). In Oguta community, a SLOC partner sensitized 30 women at Umuada forum on harmful widowhood practices. Another SLOC partner sensitized 600 women at Umuada meeting in 3 communities to support the review of by-laws that are harmful to women and girls etc.

It is well known that men and elderly women are the upholders of traditions in communities. Therefore, there can't be a change in harmful cultures without engaging men and elderly women. SLOC partners in the 3 states dialogued extensively with men and elderly women in project communities. In Imo state, these dialogues were adapted to the cultural context which made them effective. WRO held Oduezi sessions for 150 elderly women and mothers on harmful traditional norms in Amawuihe community, Amandugba Community and Umuezeala- Nsu community. Similarly, they held Nzuko Mgbala Umunna and engaged 25 male community leaders and traditional leaders in Umuezeala Nsu community on reducing incest and child molestation. They also held Nzuko Mgbala Umunna for 39 youth leaders and boys in Umuezeala Nsu community on the problem of incest. More so, Umuada Nta Mentoring Session for girls engaged 36 girls in Umuezeala Nsu community on issues of incest, child molestation and teenage pregnancy. Adapting GBV dialogues forums to meetings familiar to the community made sensitization and dialogues on VAWG more effective and accelerated support for stopping practices that perpetuate VAWG in these communities (social change).

Table 6: Persons Trained on GBV in SLOC Project Communities

	FCT	Gombe	Imo	Total
Women	916	243	295	1454
Men	193	248	68	509
Boys	252		189	441
Girls	123		136	259
				2663

Also, 2,663 persons were trained on GBV with women constituting the highest group trained. SLOC partners used the media to further motivate change in harmful sociocultural norms and practices that reinforced gender-based violence. Through radio programs, TV programs and social media the SLOC partners disseminated information far beyond the project communities.

The people of Tongo community in Gombe state are Fulanis who are predominantly cattle rearers. Fulanis are known for listening to radio programs while rearing cattle. WRO held media chats in the local dialect on community radio in Gombe which helped in spreading the information on VAWG to Fulani cattle rearers.

Music is known and understood by all. It is even more effective when it is a sound familiar to the people. A WRO worked with a community in Imo state to write a folk song on harmful widow practices and it was aired on radio. Community Radio is a unique and effective tool and was used in disseminating information on the SLOC project. Across the three states, **506,500** persons were reached through media programs on the radio.

SLOC partners carried out VAWG school interventions. Katrina International Academy girls club in Dutse Alaji FCT organized a debate on sex education and VAWG and it was aired on TV.

5.2 Influencing Change: Community By-Laws

Achievements in Policy Change

Although policy change was not the focus of the SLOC project, as implementation progressed organizations observed that policy was important in influencing change and certain persons were essential in achieving policy change. Findings from the baseline assessment showed that engaging males and older women was vital in changing norms as they are the key guardians of patriarchy and other harmful cultural practices. As such, partner organizations dialogued and sensitized traditional leaders, men and boys in project communities. As a result, traditional leaders saw the need to support the development or revision of community by-laws to prohibit negative socio-cultural norms on VAWG. SLOC project influenced the establishment of by-laws in 19 communities (4 in FCT, 7 in Gombe and 8 in Imo). These are some of the by-laws established and adopted by communities which changed long-standing harmful traditions.

By-laws in FCT

By-law Kuchiko Bwari Community FCT- Anyone who is reported for domestic violence and continues after warning would be sent out of the community.

By-law Dutspe community FCT - The by-law states that 'If a girl drops out of school because of pregnancy, the boy responsible for the pregnancy if schooling will also drop out of school and return to school when the girl returns.

By-laws in Gombe

By-law Garko Gombe – Garko established guidelines for Barema and sanctions for anyone who ignores the guidelines.

By-law kaltungo/ shongom Gombe- These communities reviewed sharing of inheritance in the by-law. The by-law states that a girl can inherit from her husband or father.

By-laws in Imo

By-law Oguta community Imo state - The oldest woman in Oguta and the traditional council endorsed more favorable laws for widows which state that

- mourning period for women and men should be the same.
- A widow during mourning should not be restricted to being indoors.
- A widow is allowed to move freely.
- The widow and the children of the dead man have equal rights to inherit his properties without interference from his relatives.

By-law Amandugba Imo state- Reviewed by-laws for widowhood

By-law Oforola community and Olaukwu communities in Imo state - The law states that

- Women and girls will henceforth inherit land and other properties from parents and family
- All widowhood practices are abolished
- Osu caste system abolished
- FGM abolished
- Women will be represented in the cabinet

By-law Umuezeala Nsu community – Revised law contained provisions against incest and was signed by the Eze. The perpetrator of incest will be booked by the police rather than just appeasing the gods with a goat. The person that commits incest will be shamed. The girl victim must continue her education rather

than excommunicating her from the community.

The effectiveness of the by-laws and Response Team was described by a religious leader in Garko Gombe:

Garko community has been transformed by the SLOC project. The by-laws and discipline for defaulters have highly discouraged perpetrators who do not want to be brought in front of the council. We preach against violence but it wasn't having an impact like it is now that we have Community Response Team and by-laws. Things have changed because people know that if they go against the law they will be disciplined.

The SLOC project influenced policy change by setting up by-laws.

The by-laws differed across communities which confirms that communities set laws that addressed harmful norms that mattered to them.

The traditional leaders and cabinet signed these laws signaling that they approved the laws and it was binding.

5.3 Influencing Change: Open Declarations Against GBV

Achievements in Policy Change

Following the establishment of by-laws in 19 communities, the SLOC project supported 9 of these communities to hold ceremonies to publicly declare zero tolerance to GBV. These declarations were made by the traditional leaders and witnessed by Human Rights Commission, LGA officials, media and the entire community.

VAWG Public Declarations in FCT

- Open declaration by the chief of Kuchiko Bwari community in FCT on zero tolerance for GBV.
- Open declaration by the chief of Pigba-Sama in FCT prohibiting breast ironing and other VAWG.
- Chika traditional leader made a public declaration at a town hall meeting against any form of VAWG.

VAWG Public Declarations in Imo

- Public declaration by the Eze to end FGM in Ozuh Omuma community, Imo state.
- Public declaration on by-laws approved by the eldest woman and the Eze council ending harmful widowhood practice in Oguta community, Imo state.
- Public declaration by the Ezes of Olaukwu and Oforola communities on ending FGM and Osu cast system.
- Umuezeala Nsu traditional ruler in a public ceremony openly declared and signed by-laws to back actions that protect women and girls against VAWG.
- The Traditional Ruler, Ogbennesiii Community, made a public declaration against harmful cultural practices that impede women's rights and signed the by-laws.

Public declarations also raised awareness widely across the communities on GBV and the revised laws. It demonstrated that the changes in harmful norms had the backing of traditional leaders and government agencies such as LGAs, Human Right Commission etc.

SLOC project through public declarations legitimized the by-laws and GBV Response Teams in the communities and influenced social change.

5.4 Influencing Change: Organizing Community GBV Response

Achievements of Community Response Teams

Prevention approaches implemented by SLOC partners significantly disrupted the culture of silence associated with GBV and increased reporting of GBV from communities. Increase in reported cases of VAWG brought to the fore the need to strengthen community structures to respond to cases even though responding to cases was not part of the SLOC project design.

Furthermore, baseline findings confirmed that there were weak or no community structures or systems for justice for GBV survivors. According to a traditional leader in Garko, Gombe state, structures in the community for resolving issues were ineffective before the SLOC but the project helped the community formalize these structures by establishing the Community Response Team (CRT).

The SLOC project established protection committees in **24 communities**. CRT or Protection Committee is a multi-stakeholder response team set up to prevent, protect from and respond to harmful socio-cultural norms that increase GBV. The response team includes community heads, religious leaders, men representative, women representative, security agencies etc. CRTs are guided by by-laws. The achievements of Community Response Teams are captured below:

Reduction in Rape, Domestic Violence and Neglect

3 protection committees in FCT responded to 20 GBV cases.

- Kuchicko Response Committee has seen and resolved 15 cases of domestic violence, attempted rape and child abuse.
- Barangoni Protection Committee referred a case of rape of a girl with disability to the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP). The rapist was arrested and the girl was placed in NAPTIP shelter. The committee intervened in an issue of parental neglect by the father. The committee contacted the local government area council where the father of the child works and arrangements were made to send a portion of his salary to his wife for the child's upkeep.
- New Kutunko committee referred 1 case of domestic violence to the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). A 12 years old girl with mental challenges was sexually assaulted and it was addressed by the CPC. Another case of abandonment of family responsibilities to the wife was reported and addressed by the CPC.

734 VAWG cases were reported from communities and addressed by 7 CRTs in Gombe.

- Garko CRT received 5 reports of rape (1 rape and 4 attempted rape).
- 1 report of rape and 2 attempted rape were reported to Lawantin CRT.
- Malanisidi CRT received 1 report of rape.
- Kaltungo/ Shongom CRT addressed 503 domestic violence cases 503 and 31 cases of rape.
- Liji/ Kwami CRT received and addressed 131 cases of domestic violence.
- Tongo CRT has resolved 16 cases of early and forced marriage.

Oguta VAWG Response Team has handled 20 cases of domestic violence, denial of inheritance, rape and child defilement. A child of 5 years was raped by a man of 35 years. The rape was reported to the response team and the man was arrested by the police.

The actions of the response team set up by the SLOC project have drastically reduced incidences of domestic violence and cover-up of rape with money in project communities.

Tackled Child Trafficking

7 cases of child trafficking/ maltreatment cases handled by 2 protection committees (Baragoni Response Team in FCT and Amawuihe Local Interactive Group (LIG), Imo state).

- Amawuihe LIG handled A case of a stepmother who used hot water on her stepdaughter. They also intervened in another case and returned a house help who was badly maltreated by her aunt to her parents.

Achievements in Combating Teenage Pregnancy

The revised by-laws for Dutspe FCT prohibit drop out of girls from school because of pregnancy and prohibits forced co-habitation because of teenage pregnancy. A community court was established in Dutspe to enforce the provision of the by-law. 3 Girls who dropped out of school due to teenage pregnancy are back in school. Mothers in Dutspe who forced their pregnant teenage daughters to cohabit with some man, brought their daughters back home.

Females Entitled to Inheritance

In Oforola community Imo state, every male is entitled to community land but not females. If a young girl is pregnant out of wedlock, the father of the child is only interested if it is a male child because the child is entitled to land. If the baby is a girl, the father pays N10,000 and abandons the mother and the baby. The by-law was reviewed to address female inheritance.

OPI Committee handled 30 cases of denial of females' inheritance, wife battery and neglect. 6 women have been able to get their inheritance through the assistance of the OPI Committee set up by the SLOC project.

Similarly, 5 female siblings in Gombe who were robbed of their father's inheritance, contacted CRT and were linked to FIDA to handle their case. The court awarded them their inheritance of 2.97million and farm lands.

Reduced Harmful Widowhood Practices

When men lose their wives they are not affected by negative mourning customs but this is not the same for women. Widows were not allowed to go out until after the husband's burial. In Imo state, it could take one year before the burial is done. Throughout that time the widow remains indoors. She also doesn't inherit her husband's properties. SLOC WROs partners supported communities to review by-laws on widowhood. They set up response teams that address cases of maltreatment of widows. In 3 communities, 12 widows reported incidences of denial of inheritance and they were addressed.

Eradicated Osu Caste System

In the olden days in Oforola community and Olaukwu communities some people were used as sacrifice to the gods. The rest of the people do not marry them. They also do not inherit land. By-laws established in these communities abolishing Osu. 2 Osu discrimination cases were reported to CRT and taken to court. Students of Community Secondary School Oforola, reported that because of the SLOC project, they now relate with Osu children in school.

Female Genital Mutilation Reduced

Due to SLOC interventions it is a crime to circumcise a girl in Oguta Olaukwu and Oforola communities. Oganihu Amawuihe VAWG response committee has handled 3 cases of FGM.

Tackled Incest

Incidence of incest was on the rise in Umuezeala Nsu Community, Imo state. SLOC partners engaged men, boys, elderly women etc to sensitize them on the issue. Umuezeala Nsu LIG handled 5 cases of incest.

Therefore, SLOC partners strengthened community structures to respond to GBV.

5.5 Influencing Change: Uniting Women's Voices Against GBV

Achievements of Women Peer Groups

SLOC partners trained women as mentors/ peer educators. These mentors formed community safe spaces (women groups), where they always meet to educate other women. Peer groups conducted activities such as sensitizations, advocacy etc. independent of the WROs.

WROs formed women and girls peer education groups to empower, organize and amplify the voices of women and girls on issues affecting women and girls including GBV. The ability of women and girls to train their peers ensured the replication and spread of information. It brought women together and improved solidarity among them. Also, male peer groups were formed in a few communities.

Table 7

	Peer Educators Trained	Peers Reached
Women	148	1250
Girls	16	887
Men	49	327
Boys	64	
Total	277	2464

SLOC directly trained 277 peer educators, who in turn scaled the information to 2,464 persons. Peer educators significantly improved the spread of VAWG information. These are some of the achievements of peer groups in ending VAWG.

Increased Access to Education

The norm of women being left out of school is changing. Peer groups in FCT and Gombe (north) started adult learning literacy classes.

- Women peer group in a Pigba sama community in FCT organized adult learning centers and 26 women enrolled.
- 150 women attended adult literacy classes done by Lawantin women group, Gombe which has boosted adult education, especially in the north where girl education is lowest.
- Tongo girls in Gombe used to stop their education at JSS 3 but through the sensitization of peer groups on the SLOC project, 1 of these girls is now a student of Gombe State University, 3 girls went to College of Education Gombe and 1 girl is attending Health Technology College Gombe.

A woman from Garko women's peer group in Gombe said that women's education is not a priority in their community. Through the SLOC project peer session, she took part in the adult literacy class. All the women in her peer session have sent their children to school. In the literacy classes, women have learnt to count, write their names and use their phones.

It is a norm for girls in Chika, FCT not to go to school but this norm is changing. The traditional leader mapped homes with girls of school age not in school and engaged with these families to ensure parents send their girls to school. Similarly, Iman in Kuchiko Bwari, FCT (religious leader) who had removed his daughter from school sent her back to school.

Reduced Breast Ironing

In indigenous communities in FCT which includes Pigba-sama community, it was believed that breast ironing protects adolescent girls against sexual violence. Peer mentors sensitized women about the dangers of breast ironing and instead holding perpetrators accountable should be done in place of practicing breast ironing. Also, breast ironing was renounced at the public declaration ceremony. Breast ironing has reduced and this was confirmed by women and girls.

Made Barema Safer for Children

The practice of sending girls to the farm to work for stipends is common in Garko community of Gombe state. Usually, no effort is made to ascertain the persons that take these girls to the farms, parents do not know the farms their daughters are working in or the risk they are exposed to at the farms. By-laws were developed addressing barema but the by-laws were not understood by many women in the community. Peer facilitators through the SLOC project educated women on the by-laws law which increased adherence to the revised laws.

Domestic violence and Fear of GBV reduced

Initially, before the coming of the SLOC project, when a woman is beaten by her husband it is her family business but now women know that the issue of one woman affects all women. Through peer sessions women experiencing or living in the fear of gender-based violence learnt to seek help.

- More than 4 women in Pigba-sama, FCT reported their abusive husbands at the meeting. The groups sent delegations to the abusive husbands and inform them of the consequences of their actions.
- A woman who lived in Bwari Area Council, FCT had endured domestic violence from her husband for decades and forceful separation from her children. She was sensitized by a participant in the women's peer education session and she reported the case. She was referred to NAPTIP and FIDA Nigeria. The husband was arrested and charged to court.
- In Dutspe FCT, the wife of the traditional leader and the woman leader did not think that it was bad for a husband to beat his wife if she does wrong but through peer sessions, they became strong advocates in the communities against domestic violence.
- In Jalingo, Gombe state, peer facilitators received reports and responded to over 20 cases of domestic violence and 40 cases of rape.

Reduced Exposure to VAWG from Economic Dependence

Peer groups provided access to skills, training, credit facilities and employment for women and girls which made women less vulnerable to GBV and improved the sustainability of the peer groups. Although this was not initially part of the SLOC interventions, gaps created by economic dependence made it relevant. Economic interventions were done mainly by peer groups in Gombe and FCT (north).

- Woman peer groups in Garko and Lawanti, Gombe state contributed money every week and shared it within the group.
- Women peer group in Lapan community Gombe saved and bought foodstuff and shared. They also trained women to make soap, pomade and bournvita and they sold these products to nearby communities. During cashless they distributed small items like salt, Maggi, etc. and gave cash to members.
- 100 women from peer groups in Jalingo Gombe saved weekly contributions. Through this savings, women in the group got at least N10,000 as start-up capital for business.

- Community women lacked bank accounts. SLOC partner FAIDA in Gombe opened bank accounts for 243 women which was useful during the cashless policy implementation and also gave these women independent control of their finance. Women now have functional account numbers as a result of the women's peer education session.
- In Ligi in Gombe, SLOC project trained 14 women and girls with disability in income generating skills. According to a lame woman, before SLOC project as a lame person, she never had access to the Hakim (traditional leader). Through this project, she is part of the peer group and has sat and spoken with the Hakim in his palace. Before she was just at home but this project brought her from the house and trained her. Another blind girl learnt the to make pomade at the training and she is selling it now. Through the business, she is mingling with people and makes money.

Restored Rights of Women in the Family

In Lapan in Gombe, before SLOC project during the rainy season man and wife go to the farm and work but after harvest and the goods are sold, the man can decide not to support the family with the money from the sales. This issue has caused a lot of divorce in Lapan. Peer groups sensitized the community against this behaviour and traditional leaders made laws that punish this behaviour. Men now give a portion of land to women to farm, sell products and keep the proceeds.

Relaxing Restriction to Certain Businesses

A long time ago in Akabor, Imo state, women were banned from farming melon. Peer groups carried out sensitization and dialogues to enlighten the community on reversing this ban on melon farming.

Overall, through the involvement of peer groups, violence against women and girls reduced in SLOC project communities.

5.6 Influencing Change: Adolescents

Achievements of School Clubs and Community Clubs

SLOC partners implemented the project in 42 schools and established school clubs in 40 schools. Girl clubs provided safe space in schools and communities for girls to discuss issues including GBV. One boy's club was established in Oforula Community Secondary School Imo because boys were motivated by the girls' club and demanded their club. These are some of the achievements of SLOC interventions for girls and boys:

Improved Vocational/ Career advancement

SLOC school interventions have built girls' confidence to speak and brought out leadership qualities in girls. The leadership qualities observed in these girls caught the attention of school authorities and changed the mentality that girls cannot be senior prefects. In Pricilia Memorial Secondary School Oguta, Imo state, **2 females** were made prefects. **15 female students** from St Patrick Mission School Club Ogbe and Brilliant Comprehensive Secondary Ogbenneisii School Club in Imo state were recognized in various school prefect positions. This was the first time this number of girls were given school positions in these schools.

Similarly, there was a 75% increase in enrollment of girls in Katrina International Academy – Dutse Alaji, FCT because the school publicized the activities of the girl's VAWG club.

Also, the sensitization done by the girls' club established by the SLOC project in Government Comprehensive Secondary School Gombe resulted in the enrollment of 30 girls in the school.

Enabled Self-Reliance

School clubs and other community activities implemented by the SLOC project enabled adolescents to discover their hidden talents. Through the SLOC interventions for adolescents, 20 young boys and girls in Oguta, Imo state learnt to use ART, poetry and drama to express themselves.

A SLOC partner set up a girls' club in Government Comprehensive Secondary School Ligi, Gombe state. The school club trained girls in business skills like making perfume, pomade and sewing. A girl from the club enrolled to learn tailoring after the training and currently sews after school to supplement her income and another girl from the club is learning to sew under her.

Clearly, SLOC interventions reduced the vulnerabilities of girls and boys to GBV

5.7 Factors that Enhanced Acceptability of the SLOC Project

Although religious norms in Gombe and cultural norms in Imo posed initial resistance to the SLOC project, all the communities across the 3 states later embraced the project. The factors that improved acceptance of the project are

- SLOC partners engaged traditional leaders and religious leaders and these leaders were involved in the project. The high involvement of traditional and religious leaders in the project was observed during evaluation (6 traditional leaders and 6 religious leaders participated in the FGDs). The support from these leaders for VAWG caught the attention of their communities' and it gave WROs access to these communities.
- WROs didn't come with a project to impose on the community but allowed the community to lead on the issues that was important to them. The issues addressed on the project affected communities directly. In many communities, women desired freedom from VAWG issues but did not think it was possible. When the SLOC project brought solution to these issues, women were less resistant to the project.
- Communities with educated traditional leaders and other enlightened community members easily accepted the information on the consequences of harmful norms and supported the eradications of these norms.
- SLOC project was accepted by the communities because WRO showed respect for the culture of the communities. WROs spoke the language, dressed like them, ate and drink with them, went to their farms etc.
- Some organizations have worked in these communities before and built trust in past projects. SLOC WROs already known to communities previously, were easily accepted.
- Communities were involved in every step of implementation. The traditional rulers and other community leaders selected the members of the CRTs and peer facilitators. CRTs and peer facilitators also took the lead and implemented VAWG activities independent of WROs. Community ownership of the interventions was established.
- The VAPP act has been domesticated in FCT and Imo state. Community leaders in these states were willing to change harmful norms when they were informed of the VAPP law.

5.8 Innovation

Innovative Achievements

Opi Festival

Different communities in Nigeria are known and recognized for their festivals. A festival is a celebration of the traditions of a particular people or place. Honor Birth Foundation in Imo state, organized the OPI festival that brought Oforola and Olukuwu communities together to celebrate the change, reform and freedom to women that has occurred in their communities. The OPI festival was a major attraction for both communities and their neighboring communities because it represented their customs. OPI festival raised awareness widely on VAWG. At this festival, someone supported the production of 500 copies of the VAPP law. A second OPI festival was organized the following year independently by OPI Response Team in Oforola and Olukuwu communities and from the festival they raised money to register the OPI Response Team. OPI festival is innovative because it has become a symbol in these communities of the end of harmful norms and practices against women and girls.

Egwuonwa

Egwuonwa is a gathering for young people to come around to hear or tell folk tales, dance, and play, share experiences, talent building and admonish themselves. This was a usual trend that happens mostly in the night in the years past where children come out from their homes to relate and know themselves better.

NCWS in Imo state, rejuvenated this gathering and used it as a tool for young people peer education session to enhance young people's knowledge on best practices on ending VAWG in their community. This was done for 150 young persons in 3 communities (Amawuihe community, Amandugba Community and Umuezeala Nsu community). This innovative approach domesticated the peer session and improved acceptance of information on VAWG among young people.

Annual Whyte Teen Concert

CCC in Imo state organized annual Whyte Teen Concert to spread the information on GBV to young people and parents. Information on VAWG is communicated at the concert through art, dance, drama, debate which is easily understood by young people. The concert brought together a large gathering of over 400 AYPs and parents. A boy from Pricilla School Oguta said that the Whyte Concert helped him discover his talent in ART. He didn't know he could write scripts but he wrote the script for the drama that won an award at the concert. He also presented paintings and poems at the concert. Whyte teen concert is an innovative, exciting and fun way to communicate VAWG to young people. ***Young boys and girls recommended that in future GBV projects WROs should have more awareness on social media and more awareness like the teens concert for young people.***

This confirms that WROs utilized Innovative approaches to improve effectiveness of the SLOC Project

5.9 Challenges and Recommendations

- Service providers e.g., police and health workers need to see a means of identification indicating membership in peer groups or CRTs to respond to inquiries about cases which was unavailable. ***It is recommended that WRO works with registered peer groups and response teams to make identification available.***
- Peer groups and CRTs needed to pay for police or medical services when handling cases of GBV but SLOC project did not cover costs for GBV response. ***Therefore, future projects should in addition to preventing GBV include some of the following: GBV service provision through WROs, support for referrals, strengthening of relevant service providers or supporting community structures to set up sustainable systems for generating funds.***
- it is important to ensure that community structures (CRTs) respond to GBV issues with professionalism and do not go beyond their role or take matters into their hands and end up causing harm unintentionally. Although training of these structures was done on a limited scale on the SLOC project, ***there is a need for AAN to deepen training for community structures in future grants.***
- The SLOC project did not originally aim to influence policy, but by-laws were central in enabling project achievements. ***Therefore, AAN may want to include influencing policy change as part of expectations for GBV projects***
- SLOC funding for project implementation and the administrative cost was quite small. Staff remuneration was below average ranging from N5,000 – N10,000 a month which accounted for the high attrition of trained WRO staff. Furthermore, the high inflation rate and hike in fuel prices affected the grant by tripling the cost of transport and other materials. ***It is therefore recommended that grants for GBV be increased to enable scale-up.***
- The SLOC grant only covered direct project costs and not indirect costs that organizations need to be sustained e.g., Office rent, office supplies, maintenance, etc. ***It is recommended that providing for indirect costs on future grants will strengthen Women Rights Organizations.***
- To make VAWG programs more acceptable for young people ***it was recommended that in future GBV projects, WROs should have more awareness on social media and more awareness like the teens' concert for young people.***
- Slow progress in getting justice is a challenge for GBV projects.
- Insecurity in the country was a challenge and it affected the project, The high rate of kidnapping made conducting exchange activities between schools impossible. Children from other schools could not attend VAWG activities in project schools because of insecurity. WRO in Imo had to change their project community because of insecurity. Traditional leaders in Imo had to leave their community because of the threat to their lives and it affected the project.

Lessons Learnt

- The demand for incentives from communities was a challenge. WROs mitigated this through the community entry strategy of sensitizing the various stakeholders in the community and seeking their buy-in and being transparent about the lack of incentives.
- A few WROs set up male peer groups and observed that women's peer groups were more sustainable than male peer groups because women already had the culture of regular meetings. Also, men are more inclined to show interest in things that bring financial reward and there was no incentives for peer groups.
- WROs mainly engaged community the chief and district chief. If WROs engage the ward chief of the area council it would create an avenue where the results in project communities will be reported in ward council meetings and other chiefs can express desires for the same intervention. Also, if chiefs of project communities know they will report VAWG activities to the ward chief this will keep them accountable and improve sustainability.

6.0 Findings: Sustainability of SLOC Interventions

6.1 Project Sustainability

Factors that Enhanced Sustainability

The success of a project is not only measured by its performance and achievements but it is also determined by the extent to which the effect of the project will continue after project completion. This evaluation assessed the sustainability of SLOC project activities and below are the factors that made project interventions sustainable:

Communities Legalize Community Structures

Community Protection Committees are critical for GBV response and some communities have taken action to sustain this committee. The protection committee in 3 communities in FCT, was integrated into an existing central committee, with the protection committee as a subcommittee under the central committee. The central committees are Baragoni Development Committee, Kuchicko bwari Development Committee and New Kutunko Community Action Group. The advantage of the harmonized committee is that it provides one central committee that community run to report all issues not just issues of sexual violence. Also, central committees have been in operation for many years in these communities before the project which ensures continuity of the protection sub-committee within the central committee.

Women and girls peer groups contributed significantly to the achievements of the SLOC project. Peer education session was integrated into existing, regular community women group meetings. These are organic gatherings that do not need external support for them to hold. Gender-based violence is now a regular item on the agenda at monthly women meeting. Utilizing the peer manual provided by SLOC, peer sessions will continue beyond the life span the project.

To ensure continuity, Ligi Women Group, Gombe registered with LGA and Gombe state while Lawantin Women Group, Gombe registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Similarly, Oforola and Olukuwu in Imo state are in the process of registering their OPI response team. Oguta CRT have registered with the LGA as Onye Egwu Azo Nwanne.

Communities Structures are Independent of WROs

CRTs and Peer groups across FCT, Imo and Gombe states are self-managed. Peer facilitators carried out peer sessions without any support from WROs. The protection committees also created awareness and responded to cases without the involvement of WROs.

More so girls' clubs set up by the project carryout activities and staff facilitating the clubs run the school clubs independent of partners. Girl club of GSS Bwari FCT organized GBV awareness without WROs support.

Institutionalization of Girl Club

Girl clubs established by SLOC partners will be sustained because they have now become regular clubs where schoolgirls mobilize to advocate and speak out against SGBV and gender inequality. In Oguta Imo state, there are plans by the focal person for GBV in the Ministry of Education to replicate the girls club in every school.

Women Participation in Decision making

The continuous dialogues and sensitizations of traditional leaders and cabinet on the project brought to light the importance of having women representation in decision making bodies in the communities to speak on issues affecting women. As such, 13 women were included in the traditional council in 5 communities. Incorporating women leaders into the council of elders will ensure that the council continues to take action on GBV issues.

Enabling Legal Environment Established

The action of WROs in developing by-laws has created an enabling environment that will sustain the gains of the SLOC project in communities. Even if there are new leaders of CRTs, the by-laws will be passed on to them to guide them. The district head Ligi, Gombe state said he was grateful for the SLOC project in his community. The project has made mediating in resolving cases better. The by-laws they have gotten from the project will be domesticated for other communities. Also, his council was discussing with the Emir of Gombe to approve the by-law for the local government. This suggests that communities will be using the by-laws even after the completion of the SLOC project.

Economic Vulnerabilities Addressed

Another factor that ensures sustainability of women peer group is that women have adapted these groups to address their economic needs. Women peer group conducted trainings on income generating activities, integrated savings and loans and adult literacy etc. Also, a school club in Gombe conducted skill acquisition training for girls in the club. These activities will further motivate and sustain women peer groups and school clubs.

Traditional Leaders Take the Lead

Committee response teams will be sustained because traditional leaders are part of the team and are involved in responding to GBV issues in the three states. CCC in Imo state got support from the traditional councils of N50,000 to cover some of the expenses incurred in addressing a rape case in their community.

In the same vein there are also **Factors Limiting Sustainability** of the project in the communities and they include:

- Male peer groups may likely not be sustained because the motivation to continue peer education is poor and there have been no attempt to integrate male groups into existing male forums or register it or adapt it to address other needs.
- Due to lack of funds to respond to cases many CRTs cover these expenses out of pocket which is not sustainable. LIG members / CRT are slacking behind because there is no money to pay police for fuel, arrest etc. and no money for medical bills.

Overall, communities will likely sustain GBV structures set up by the SLOC project.

7.0 Findings:

Added Value of SLOC Project

7.1 Indirect Achievements of the SLOC Project

Indirect Achievements

This evaluation examined the indirect effects of SLOC interventions in project communities and they are as follows:

Inclusion of Women in Decision Making

Through the SLOC project, traditional leaders accepted that there was a gap in communicating decisions of the traditional council to community women. They also realized that a voice representing the issues of women was needed in the traditional council. This led to the selection and inclusion of women in traditional councils in 5 communities. The inclusion of women in the council helped the council resolve issues of GBV. The SLOC project achieved inclusion of 13 women in traditional councils in their communities.

- 4 women were added to the chief cabinet in Dutspe FCT and are involved in decision making.
- In Garko Gombe, 2 women were included in the traditional council.
- 3 women included in traditional council in kaltungo/ shongom LGAs, Gombe.
- Hakim included 3 women in Ligi traditional council, Gombe.
- The Eze of Oforola community installed 1 woman in his cabinet

Similarly, a woman from the peer group in Lapan community, contested for senatorial seat. She won the primaries but she did not win the general elections. The woman is recognized as a strong political stakeholder in the community. This project has improved women participation in decision making.

Improved Access to Learning Resources

Peer manuals developed by AAN was used by SLOC partners for peer sessions. Additional peer manuals were also developed by SLOC partners targeting specific groups or specific locations. Peer education manuals for boys and girls was developed by Virgin Heart Foundation in Imo. Teenage network developed 2 learning resources namely Changing harmful sociocultural norms guideline for Adolescent, and the Peer Education Guide for Male Champions. These learning documents are available to the public. Currently, 13 products from the SLOC project are on the feminist hub and some were disseminated physically. SLOC project has improved availability and access to learning resources.

Improved Family Relationship

One of the main resistance to challenging gender based violence is the fear that it will disrupt family institution, breakup families and result in divorce. The SLOC project debunks this claim because according to the women leader in Kuchiko- bwari, FCT, women relationships with their husband improved as they attend peer sessions. Also, women in Pigba-sama, FCT also confirmed that their relationship with their daughters has improved, "they now open up to us, even the ones that are not our direct (biological) daughter". Similarly, a woman in Garko Gombe said the project has improved communication between husband and wife, parents and children and brought mutual respect and peace. SLOC project brought marital harmony.

Awards

A female peer educator in FCT got an award from NAPTIP for SGBV activism. The Executive Director of

SLOC VAWG PROJECT ENDLINE EVALUATION REPORT

Kinghtengale in Gombe received awards from the Kaltungo/ Shongom Area Council for the review of the by-laws.

SLOC Partners Invited to Speak at Events

SLOC activities of Teenage Network in FCT attracted the attention of media houses and the Executive Director was invited to speak on VAWG by 5 media houses. District head of Pigba-sama in FCT was invited to speak at the launch of a GBV report by West Minster Foundation for Democracy. CCC in Imo state was invited by Obuefi group the highest title women group to hold a seminar on unwanted teenage pregnancy.

8.0 Findings: SLOC Project Theory of Change

8.1 SLOC Project Performance

Findings from Theory of Change Analysis

The SLOC project result framework assumes that if the outcomes in the table below are achieved then the project will reach its goal. The theory of change matrix below has been utilized to determine if the SLOC project achieved its expected results

Table 8: SLOC Project Performance Review

	Indicator	Status/Achievement	Assumptions
Goal To contribute to women and girls living with reduced GBV and fear of it through effective women-led VAWG programming	Increase in favourable by-laws that support the reduction in harmful cultural norms in Imo, Gombe and FCT supported by LWROs	Favourable by-laws developed for 19 communities out of 34. (56%)	SLOC project has contributed to this goal along with other existing projects in Imo, Gombe and FCT
Intermediate Outcomes Improved institutional capabilities of women's rights organisations to strategically design, implement and manage actions on GBV for vulnerable women and girls in project states.	No of partners that reported improvement in governance and management practices	5 out of 12 WROs reported improvement in functionality and accountability to BOT (42%)	The improvement in BOT of partner organizations is directly attributed to the SLOC project
Intermediate Outcomes Increased effectiveness of women's organizations in delivering GBV interventions and affecting social change in project states	No of beneficiaries reached with VAWG program by WROs.	All WROs raised VAWG awareness for 6,647 persons. All WROs through peer groups educated 2,464 persons on VAWG	SLOC project largely influenced the effectiveness of WROs in delivering VAWG. Also, the availability of the VAPP law improved the effectiveness of WRO interventions.
Immediate Outcomes WRO with enhanced systems and structures to efficiently manage their organizations and resources	No of LWROs that develop, adapt, or review their systems and policies.	SLOC improved the availability of organizational policies for 12 partners. (100%)	The development of policies was within the control of the project and is directly attributed to the SLOC project.
Immediate Outcomes WRO with improved knowledge and practices to implement and manage actions on GBV	No of WROs that reported applying knowledge gained in implementing actions on GBV	5 WROs utilized tools from training to engage communities and it improved implementation. (42%)	Other factors that contributed to WRO application of knowledge gained. The willingness of WROs to learn Quality of AAN training and mentoring

Immediate Outcomes WRO received grants to implement VAWG interventions.	No of WROs with diversified resource mobilization strategies	WROs still have gaps in resource mobilization.	
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- The Theory of Change analysis shows that the goal of the SLOC project in reducing GBV was achieved in 34 communities in Imo, Gombe and FCT. However, the reduction in GBV is not solely due to the SLOC project, but the project contributed to it.
- The project successfully strengthened the Board of Trustees (BOT) for almost half of the WROs. This improvement in governance is a direct achievement of the SLOC project.
- All WROs delivered VAWG interventions in project states and influenced social change. SLOC project largely influenced the effectiveness of WROs in delivering VAWG. Also, the availability of the VAPP law made delivery of interventions easier.
- SLOC project has also significantly led to the availability of organizational policies for all 12 partners (100% achievement).
- Almost half of the partner organizations utilized the knowledge gained in implementing the project. All partners agree that the training was robust. The robustness of the training contributed to knowledge gained for some partners. On the flip side, for some partners the volume of work and content (robustness) was too much for the few days of training. To enhance knowledge utilization from 42%, it may be helpful to increase training days.
- WROs still have gaps in resource mobilization. This is the least area of progress in institutional strengthening of SLOC partners.

The SLOC results from the theory of change analysis agree with findings from the analysis of effectiveness, relevance, sustainability and added value. Therefore, the two approaches (theory of change and evaluation matrix) validate and strengthen the evaluation findings.

9.0 Findings: SLOC Pre and Post Analysis

SLOC Pre and Post Analysis

The Story Before and After SLOC

Pre and post evaluation is an assessment of the situation before & after the SLOC project to measure whether the expected changes took place. AAN and WROs conducted baseline assessments at the commencement of the project which established the situation and needs in the communities. The findings of the baseline assessment were compared with the end-line evaluation and these are the results:

Table 9: Pre-SLOC and Post-SLOC Status in Imo, FCT and Gombe

	Before the SLOC Project	After the SLOC Project
1	In these states, FGM, harmful widowhood practices, early marriage etc. were perceived as mere bad culture and wickedness rather than GBV,	FGD Participant We don't see sexual abuse of girls as normal. It is GBV and it is unacceptable. We have a low tolerance for GBV in Pigba-sama community.
2	There were no community structures or systems for handling GBV across these states.	The SLOC project established protection committees in 24 communities in these states to prevent, protect from and respond to harmful socio-cultural norms that increase GBV
3	Communities keep silent or turn a blind eye to GBV.	FGD participant: Initially, before the coming of the SLOC project, when a woman is beaten by her husband it is her family business but now women know that the issue of one woman affects all women. GBV Desk Officer Bwari LGA, FCT: SLOC project has empowered the community to report cases on GBV. There was no GBV report from Kuchiko Bwari before the project.
4	Women and girls lived with the fear and risk of GBV because communities were unsafe for women and girls	FGD participant: Girls feel the community is safer now than before the project because GBV cases are now addressed.
5	Traditional leaders were not conscious of GBV issues.	Women leader Garko, Gombe- Unlike before we can bring issues of the women in our communities to the CRT and the traditional council which was not the case before. In Dutspe, FCT the wife of the traditional leader and woman leader were in support of the husband beating his wife if she does

		<p>wrong but after our intervention, they are our strongest advocates against domestic violence in the communities.</p> <p>The chief of Barangoni believed that victims of rape are to blame for being raped. His mind has changed because of SLOC project. He advocates for victims and sent out someone who attempted rape in his community.</p>
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Clearly from the table, SLOC project has changed the story for women and girls in Imo, Gombe and FCT.

10.0

Recommendations

Recommendations

Key Findings and Recommendations

Key Findings

- The goal of the SLOC project in reducing GBV was achieved in 34 communities in Imo, Gombe and FCT. However, the reduction in GBV is not solely due to the SLOC project, but the project contributed to it.
- The SLOC project achieved diversity and inclusion in the selection of implementing organizations.
- The SLOC project was gender inclusive in targeting beneficiaries but there were gaps in inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- The SLOC project influenced policy change by setting up by-laws.
- SLOC Project did not impose on the community but supported communities to address harmful norms that were issues to them.
- By-laws differed across communities which confirms that communities set laws that addressed harmful norms that mattered to them.
- The traditional leaders and cabinet signed by-laws signaling that they approved the laws and it was binding.
- SLOC project through public declarations legitimized the by-laws and GBV Response Teams in the communities and so influenced social change.
- ActionAid identified the needs of organizations and provided training relevant to their needs.
- SLOC partners strengthened community structures to respond to GBV.
- The involvement of peer groups reduced violence against women and girls in SLOC project communities.
- SLOC interventions reduced the vulnerabilities of girls and boys to GBV.
- Communities will likely sustain GBV structures set up by the SLOC project.
- WROs still have gaps in resource mobilization. This was the least area of progress in institutional strengthening of SLOC partners.
- WROs utilized innovative approaches to improve the effectiveness of the SLOC Project.

Recommendations for Ford Foundation

- SLOC funding for project implementation and the administrative cost was quite small. Staff remuneration was below average ranging from N5,000 – N10,000 a month which accounted for the high attrition of trained WRO staff. Furthermore, the high inflation rate and hike in fuel prices affected the grant by tripling the cost of transport and other materials.
It is therefore recommended that grants for GBV be increased to enable scale-up.

- The SLOC grant only covered direct project costs and not indirect costs that organizations need to be sustained e.g., Office rent, office supplies, maintenance, etc. ***It is recommended that providing for indirect costs on future grants will strengthen WROs.***

Recommendations for ActionAid

- The lack of M&E staff increased the workload on WROs program officers and affected the timeliness of programmatic reports. Similarly, the lack of a communications officer affected the visibility of the SLOC project. ***At a minimum for future GBV projects, AAN should ensure that WROs project staff include ED, Finance Officer, Communications officer, Programs Officer, and M&E Officer.***
- The timing was late for some trainings directly related to project implementation as such these trainings were not so useful to the project but will be useful for future projects. ***It may be helpful if AAN conducts training needed for project implementation earlier on the project while organizational training comes later.***
- It was unanimous among WROs that the training provided during the project was exactly what they needed but it was not sufficient because the volume of work and content was too much for the days planned (usually 3 days). ***It is recommended that AAN extends the number of days for training to give room for technical concepts to be simplified.***
- It is important to ensure that community structures (CRTs) respond to GBV issues with professionalism and do not go beyond their role or take matters into their hands and end up causing harm unintentionally. Although training of these structures was done on a limited scale on the SLOC project, ***there is a need for AAN to deepen training for community structures in future grants.***
- The SLOC project did not originally aim to influence policy, but by-laws were central in enabling project achievements. ***Therefore, AAN may want to include influencing policy change as part of expectations for GBV projects***
- Peer groups and CRTs needed to pay for police or medical services when handling cases of GBV but SLOC project did not cover costs for GBV response. ***Therefore, future projects should in addition to preventing GBV include some of the following: GBV service provision through WROs, support for referrals, strengthening of relevant service providers or supporting community structures to set up sustainable systems for generating funds.***

Recommendations for WROs

- Vulnerable groups were only involved with project activities in a few communities. Inclusion of vulnerable groups was low. ***It is recommended that in subsequent GBV projects WROs are intentional in the enrollment and engagement of vulnerable groups.***
- Service providers e.g., police and health workers need to see a means of identification indicating membership in peer groups or CRTs to respond to inquiries about cases which was unavailable. ***It is recommended that WRO work with registered peer groups and response teams to make identification available in future grants.***

- WROs engaged with religious leaders on the SLOC project. However, Christian and Muslim leaders were not represented in all the community Response Teams. ***WROs should ensure that for subsequent GBV projects, engagement with religious leaders is inclusive of both religions.***
- To make VAWG programs more acceptable for young people ***it was recommended that in future GBV projects, WROs should have more awareness on social media and more awareness like the teens' concert for young people.***

ANNEX

Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Question	Sub Questions	Respondents	Evaluation Tools
RELEVANCE – Evaluation Objective 1			
2. To what extent were SLOC institutional capacity-building processes relevant to WROs	What are the institutional needs of WROs?	AAN	Review of Baseline Assessment
		WROs	Review of PAM
	How aligned is the SLOC institutional strengthening with the capacity needs of WROs?		Focus group with AAN
	Lessons learned		Focus group with WROs
3. To what extent were SLOC GBV interventions relevant to beneficiaries and communities	What challenges do women and girls face in project communities?	WROs	Focus group with WROs
	How aligned are SLOC GBV interventions with addressing challenges in project communities?	Beneficiaries	Focus group with Beneficiaries
EFFECTIVENESS- Evaluation Objectives 2 and 3			
Achievements	What worked on the SLOC project? And why?	AAN	Focus group with AAN
4. What has been the effect of the implementation of the SLOC Project? What are the concrete results achieved through SLOC intervention? To what extent were SLOC project activities addressing socio-cultural norms and practices that perpetrate GBV in the project states		WROs	Focus group with WROs
	How has the SLOC project contributed to influencing change in practices in the project states? Compare with before the project?	Beneficiaries	Focus group with Beneficiaries
	How has the SLOC project contributed to GBV prevention and response in the project states?		
	Are there other things outside the project that contributed to the achievements of the project?		
	What needs to be improved?		
	Lessons learned		
	Recommendations		
	Have all the expected results been achieved? If not, why not?	AAN	To fill gaps in the theory of change analysis during Key informant interview with AAN
		WROs	

			Focus groups with WROs
	Has SLOC project capacity-building efforts achieved results?	AAN WROs Beneficiaries	Focus group with AAN Focus group with WROs Focus group with Beneficiaries
	What might be missing?		
	Lessons learned		
Coverage		AAN WROs Beneficiaries	Focus group with AAN Focus group with WROs Focus group with Beneficiaries
5. Did the project reach all affected groups of the population in the project states, without discrimination? If not, why not? What were the mechanisms of equal selection of project beneficiaries?			
Acceptability		Beneficiaries	Focus group with Beneficiaries
6. Were beneficiaries satisfied with the project services? If not, why not?			
IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY			
7. Which changes have SLOC interventions produced, outside its objective? Which of these changes are long-term?	What are the indirect, positive, or negative changes to the targeted beneficiaries/communities produced by the project? Are the produced direct and indirect changes long-term? If not, why not?	AAN WROs Beneficiaries	Focus group with AAN Focus group with WROs Focus group with Beneficiaries
8. Which institutional arrangements are in place for the continuity of GBV prevention?		AAN WROs	Focus group with AAN Focus group with WROs
9. What could be further done (enabling factors, tools, mechanism, change of strategy, etc.) to promote sustainability and strengthen linkages		AAN WROs	Focus group with AAN Focus group with WROs Focus group with Beneficiaries
ADDED VALUE			
10. What would likely happen in project communities without the SLOC intervention?		WROs Beneficiaries	Focus group with WROs Focus group with Beneficiaries

Pre and Post Analysis

Evaluation Question 12 What changes occurred for women and girls before and after the project?

Evaluation findings are the collective voices of 51 persons from
WROs and AAN.

It represents the voices of 116 persons from
12 communities in FCT, Imo, and Gombe.